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University and CIA

Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma, in a home-state speech, said categorically there should be "no use or infiltration whatsoever" by the Central Intelligence Agency in university research projects sponsored abroad by the government.

This flap all stems from a revelation that in 1959 some CIA employees were used by Michigan State University in fulfilling a government contract to assist the Vietnamese government in beefing up its police.

The government frequently hires university people to advise foreign governments which request the advice.

Now if the CIA fellows could provide the best advice, there is nothing wrong with that. At the same time the university must protect its academic integrity and reputation.

If the CIA people are as expert as they are cracked up to be they should be used anywhere they can do the job. When a friendly country asks for help we should provide them with the best, whether the people come from the CIA or a university or anywhere else.

And if it is necessary and useful to obtain pertinent information, it is the CIA's job to use whatever "cover" is convenient and effective.